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Reports from Rio de Janeiro—Inspection of vessels—Plague, smallpox, and yellow-fever—Mortality in Pernambuco—Hydrophobia treated at the Pasteur Institute of São Paulo.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Stewart reports, March 6, as follows:

During the week ended March 5, 1904, I inspected and issued bills of health to the following-named vessels leaving this port:

On March 1 the British steamship *Londesborough*, for New York, with a cargo of coffee, no passengers, and no change of personnel while at this port; on March 3 the British steamship *Tennyson*, with a small cargo of coffee, and with 16 steerage passengers from this port and 7 first-class passengers from here, for New York, and no change of personnel of crew; on March 4 the American bark *Grace Deering*, with a cargo of coffee, no passengers, for Baltimore. One new member of crew was taken on here by this bark, but some three weeks before sailing, and one member of crew went to Santa Casa de Misericordia—the large hospital here—for a few days before sailing, owing to an acute attack of diarrhea. This man I saw myself, and it was at my direction that he was sent to the hospital. He rejoined his vessel the day before departure. As I stated in another report, the steamship *Tennyson* was disinfected at Ilha Grande quarantine on her way to Santos, from which port she returned directly here.

These were the only vessels leaving here this past week for United States ports.

Plague at Porte Alegre.

According to a press dispatch of February 26, bubonic plague continues to make victims at Porte Alegre. I have written to this port for information in regard to plague there, but as yet have received no reply.

Another press dispatch of March 2, from Lima, Peru, says that bubonic plague there is declining, and that during the five days preceding the date of the dispatch no cases of plague had occurred.

A dispatch dated March 2, from Santiago, Chile, states that serious apprehensions are being caused in various parts of that country by the extraordinary mortality from disease of cattle at this season.

A dispatch of the same date from São Paulo states that the director of the sanitary service of that city has ordered specimens of the *Stegomyia fasciata* and of the larvæ of the same species of mosquito to be collected and placed on exhibition at a stated place, in order that the public may see, and learn to recognize, the species of mosquito which is the vehicle and transmitting agent of yellow fever. This is a measure that might well be adopted elsewhere for the education of the public in this respect.

Mortality in Pernambuco, reported by Consul Sewell.

During the year 1903 there were the following number of deaths from infectious diseases: Smallpox, 277; tuberculosis, 899; yellow fever, 1; malarial fevers, 591; leprosy, 9; beriberi, 19, and dysentery, 113.

The population of the city is estimated at from 180,000 to 200,000.

Although Pernambuco is usually considered to be fairly healthy, the mortality returns show that Rio de Janeiro is far in advance of it

from a sanitary point of view. Although the population of Rio de Janeiro is certainly at least 600,000—three times the highest population given to Pernambuco—the absolute number of deaths recorded here weekly is not proportionally so great as in Pernambuco by more than one-third.

The mortality from tuberculosis, as shown in these reports from Pernambuco, is fearfully great, and the same can be said of the mortality from malarial fevers, this mortality being far higher there than at Rio de Janeiro. The great number of deaths from dysentery must be due to some temporary cause, as 32 in two weeks would, if the same conditions had prevailed throughout the year, have caused far more than 113 deaths, as reported. Temporary causes do not, however, apply in the case of malarial fevers and tuberculosis in Pernambuco, where apparently they flourish throughout the year in about the same degree as shown in the report for the two weeks under consideration.

Cases of hydrophobia treated at Pasteur Institute.

A press dispatch, dated March 5, states that since the opening of the Pasteur Institute in São Paulo, which event occurred about the middle of last month, there have been 36 cases of persons suffering from hydrophobia treated there.

Under date of March 5, a dispatch from Acre states that the sanitary conditions there continue to be very alarming. As I stated in a previous report, there are very many cases of illness among the troops stationed there and very few physicians to treat them.

Arrival of German Yellow-Fever Commission.

A yellow-fever commission sent here by the German Government arrived here by steamer yesterday evening. (See Public Health Reports, March 25, 1904, page 546.)

Mortality report—Plague, smallpox, and yellow fever.

The mortality report of this city for the week ended March 6, 1904, is as follows: There were, in all, 300 deaths. No deaths were caused by either yellow fever or plague. Of the former disease there were 9 new cases, and of the latter 1 case only. At the close of the week there were in the hospital at São Sebastião 9 cases of yellow fever under treatment and convalescent, and at the Paulo Cândido hospital there were 15 cases of plague under treatment. This is an excellent showing for plague, and as I stated in one of the later of my weekly reports, it is only a question of a few weeks now when the disease will have been entirely eradicated from this city. Smallpox caused 31 deaths, and there were 45 cases reported. No deaths were caused by scarlet fever, whooping cough, diphtheria, or leprosy. There were 1 death from measles, 7 deaths from grippe, 5 from enteric fever, 3 from dysentery, 3 from béríberi, 10 from malarial fevers, and 34 from tuberculosis.

The weather has been very pleasant during the week; no rains, while the highest range of the thermometer was on February 26, being 28.1° C., and the lowest occurring on March 1, 21.6° C., with an average daily of 24.05° C.